COMIX WORLD 145. April 10, 1980. © Clay Geerdes, Box 7081, Berkeley, CA 94707. All Rights Reserved. Subs: $6 for 24, $10 for 48. Ads: $5-10 (query). Logos this issue by Richard "Grass" Green, the author of GOOD JIVE, SUPER-SOUL, and ONE-SHOT COMIX (the latest in the COMIX WORLD MINI-SERIES) ONE-SHOT is 50¢ and a stamp from COMIX WORLD. Subscribers may order three minis for a dollar or all comix to date for $12 pp.* When Grass Green's "Maniac" story was published in the second issue of Larry Fuller's WHITE WHORE FUNNIES, it triggered a lot of strong responses from people who saw it as a justification of rape, that reaction being particularly strong here in the Bay Area where rape has been a serious problem since the 1960's. In Green's story, a woman character is shown reflecting upon a rape as though she enjoyed it. Well, I have known a number of rape victims personally and I have never known one who was not damaged psychologically by the experience and I certainly never knew anyone who enjoyed it in any way. Some of the women I have interviewed during my career as a reporter have admitted to rape fantasies during intercourse with men they loved, but that is quite different from a desire for actual rape. Rape is an act of violence, in my opinion, and anyone who believes that women wish to be raped is in need of therapy. So with my own bias stated, I'll let Grass Green say his piece about the controversial story. "MANIAC ON THE LOOSE was written in, and intended to be taken in a humorous vein. Ronn Foss saw it, and cracked up. I showed it to a couple other artist pals, and they likewise cracked up. Yet, Clay says the story is really raising hell out California way with libbers all aghast that anyone could even DO a story like that. Publisher Larry Fuller told me that that single story has gotten him more hate mail, verbal, and vocal complaints than most anything that he's ever done! . . . Man, I batted that story out just like I did most all the other stories I was doing at the time. Didn't really think much about it except that it was another Grass Green humorous ditty that ug-ers seemed to like a bit. Had I known the controversy it would cause, it's difficult to say WHAT I'da done with the story." MANIAC was drawn in 1973, inked in 1975-6, touched up in 1978, zipped and sold in 1979, and published in 1980 in WHITE WHORE 3. I asked Grass if he really thought women liked to be raped and he said, "No, not in general, but there has to be some exceptions to the rule. We ALL know there are women who don't feel loved unless their hubby's beating the shit out of'm. There are some chicks who can't COME unless their man is brutal with them or have them chained, etc. So what's wrong with a lonely chick remembering something in afterthought as not really being so bad? How many bad times have you been through that were really HELL at the time, but that you can look back at not only sans anxiety, but can even laugh and talk about? No, it may not be as bad as being raped, but what the hell? How about when a new guy goes to prison You don't think he fights the homo thing and usually gets raped his first time? Then, after he gets horny enough, and masturbation don't do it no more, and meanwhile he's hearing the moaning and groaning of the other guys gettin' RELEASE; you think he ain't eventually gonna start screwing other men, too? Maybe even rape a "newie" into the realm hisself? I've never been to prison, and I hope I never GO, but should I ever, you can be sure I know what to expect. . . So, no, I don't think a woman ENJOYS being raped. But MANIAC was written like everything else I ever did for ugs; HUMOR/FUN. If people wanna get upset, fuck'm--ug readers lately have been sayin' that all the artists shit has gotten to be old-hat; same-o same-o; nothing new, uninteresting . . . well, I'll learn 'em, durn 'em! As a mallafack, I feel kinda special again, being back in the spotlight of controversy for the first time since learning of all the hell my INCEST story raised." "MANIAC isn't meant to suggest that EVERY woman would enjoy being raped; just that this one, lonely, stacked, but plain of face--in after thought, DID enjoy it." Well, Grass, to this I would have to say that it seems that nearly all of the stories done by men have a way of dealing with this one woman who does enjoy being raped. Why does SHE get the attention? In many thrillers (DEAD ZONE, THE MAJORETTES), the mad rapist gets his in the end and all's well with the world, but in reality it's more like the t-v rape special where the rapist gets off scot-free and the woman victim suffers more because she reported the rape and pressed charges than she would have if she had just kept quiet about it. LIPSTICK suggested that the only way a woman could really protect herself would be with a gun. This whole question would be academic if it were not for the fact that rape has been increasing in urban areas and is quite serious for those of us who live in them. Rape causes paranoia in the entire feminine community and indirectly affects all of the men. Raped women often break up with their lovers or husbands because they cannot relate to males after the experience so it is not, as a lot of men like to say, strictly a women's problem. I will grant Grass's contention that some women may enjoy a rape in retrospect; I haven't met any, but perhaps he has; however, I am disturbed by any media that suggest this and perpetuate to other men an idea (that women want to be raped) which is threatening and dangerous. The rape problem in our culture has a lot of facets. I believe t-v programs like CHARLEY'S ANGELS trigger a rape response in certain men. The women presented are always teasing sexually and they are unattainable. This triggers the kind of resentment and frustrated anger that drives some men to rape. Nearly every advertised product has been associated with the bodies of women. At the same time all this stimulae is felt by those of us who live in this electronic environment, men have experienced a decade of angry feminism which has translated for many of them into no sex. Whether triggered by a desire for revenge against women or out of a desperate horniness, I won't justify rape. I think such a violation does irreparable damage. I have seen it personally and hope I never have to go through it again. Those of you who have been close friends with a rape victim will understand. So I can't accept MANIAC as just a funny story, though I can understand that it was just a funny idea Grass had and illustrated with perhaps just a wee bit of symbolic revenge against women's liberation. Nor do I expect to resolve this controversy in the limited space here. Grass and I have had our say and you're welcome to write and have yours.

-CLAY GEERDES
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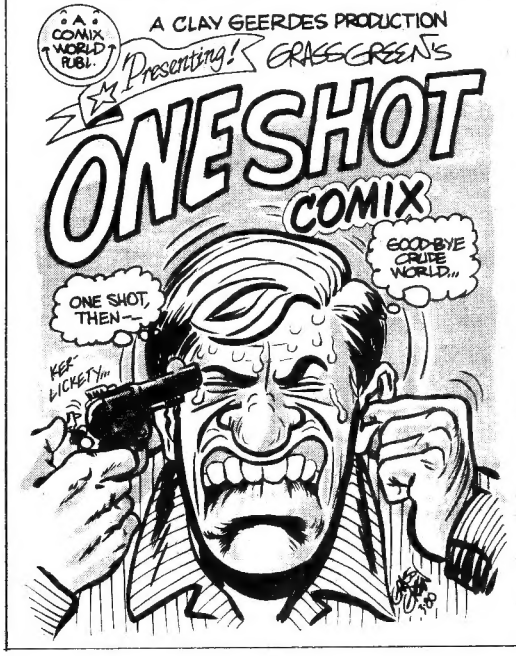

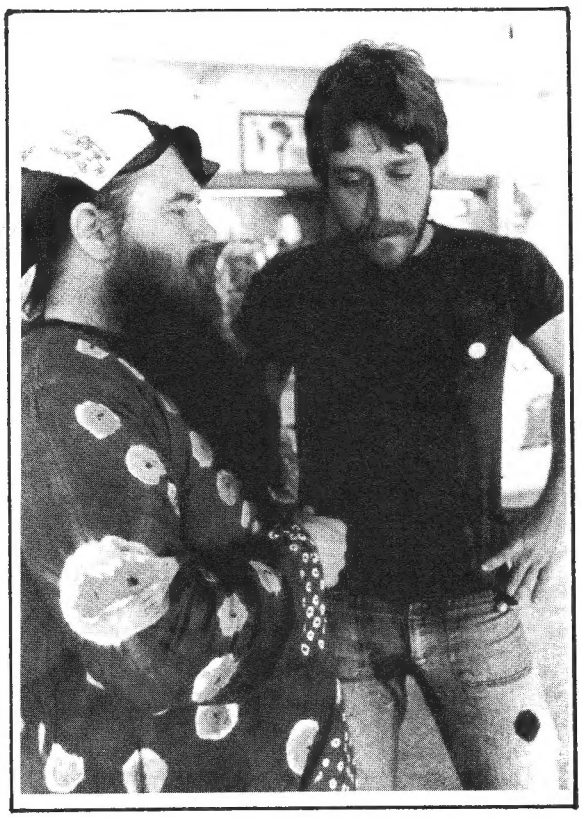

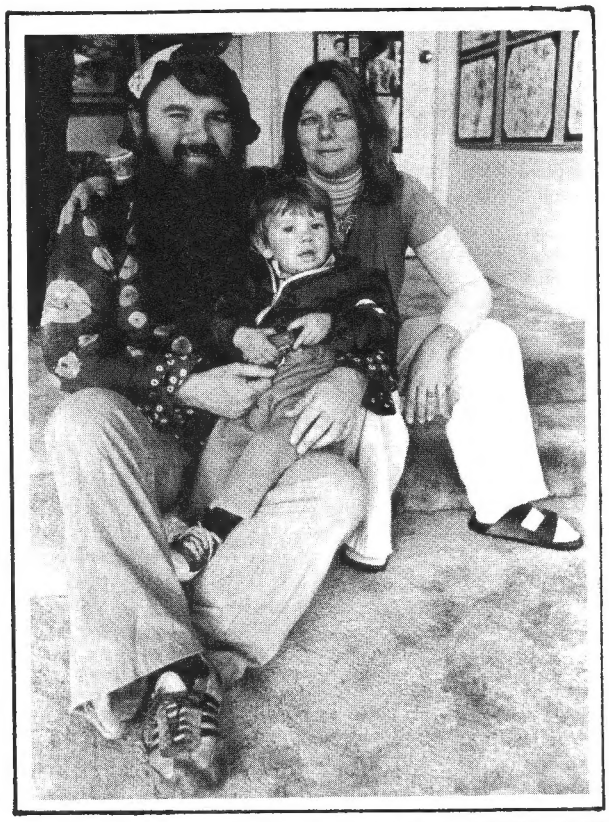

More gallery action the past couple of weeks than in nearly a decade of comix. The Last Gasp art is at the Will Stone on Sutter and Greg Irons is showing his Ancient Mariner illos at the Barbary Coast, 394 Broadway, in San Francisco. I stopped in for the Easter Sunday opener. Ron Turner and his family were there (family photo-top right) and Greg was on hand visiting with a lot of old friends. That's Greg talking to Ron top left. Leonard Rifas stopped in, says the artwork has been assigned for CORPORATE CRIME 3. Ron told me he had the artwork in for MICKEY RAT 3 so there are a couple you can look out for in the coming months.* Bill Griffith is having a show of originals at the Jehu Gallery. The reception is April 15, 6-8 pm. Zippy is still a candidate for president and Duck's Breath Mystery Theater is doing the Zippy play around the Bay Area.* Remember Haight-Ashbury? Well, in case you forgot, Gene Anthony has published his collection of photographs in THE SUMMER OF LOVE: HAIGHT ASHBURY AT ITS HIGHEST. It's 9.95 plus $2 postage from Last Gasp, 2180 Bryant, San Francisco, CA 94110. It's not like being there, but what can you do?

The idea of women being impregnated with the sperm of Nobel prize winners stimulated Valentino to do an entire mini comic so the latest COMIX WORLD mini-comic is NOBEL SPERM. 50¢ and a stamp. You readers who have been waiting around can now get a set of minis for $3.50 pp. The set includes the ten latest like ZEROX MOON and NOBEL SPERM.* Dan Taylor has his 5th issue out, BOOK OF ART 5. 50¢. 1833 Guntle Road, New Lebanon, Oh 45345. TELE-TIMES is a little mag done by Bruce Duncan and lots of others. Has a lot of comix and lore re the Telly. Latest issue is 20 pages. $1 pp from Bruce, Berkeley Inn Hotel, Room 414, 2501 Haste Street, Berkeley 94704.* OVERLOAD 2 is out from the guys in Eureka and hotter than #1. $1.75pp from Ben Chin, 1951 Quaker Street, Eureka, CA 95501.* Where do you get those heavy sex comics, like the one discussed on the other side of this sheet? From Inkwell, 495 Ellis St., Box 2595, San Francisco, CA 94109. WHITE WHORE FUNNIES, ADULTS ONLY, and GAY HEARTHROBS. $2.60 apiece. Adults only. Is sex really all that controversial?* New Wavers; If you want to comment on the New Wave or anything else for my upcoming article in FANFARE, write me now. I start typing it up in a few weeks. -Clay Geerdes

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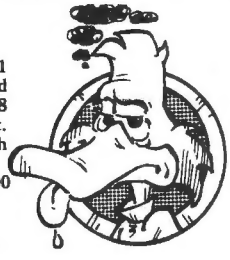

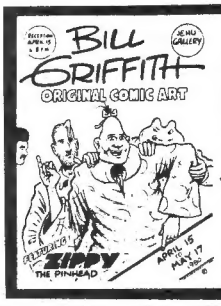

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